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Introducing www.targum.nl

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In the past few years the website www.targum.nl has been launched and filled with results from the Targum Institute. Now this is well under way, the time has come to give a short introduction to what can be found there. The website includes three major items, from left to right: editorial work, lists and databases of manuscripts, and descriptions of the various projects the Targum Institute has carried out.

Editions

Critical Edition of Targum Samuel

The heading ‘Critical Edition of Targum Samuel’ gives a critical edition of Targum 1 Samuel 1–3 for the moment. In the coming years it will be augmented with the critical edition of the rest of Targum Samuel. On the right side of the screen the Aramaic text is visible by the chapter. This is an almost diplomatic edition of MS Or. 2210 (British Library, London): obvious mistakes are corrected. One can also choose a running English translation by clicking on ‘English translation’ instead of ‘Main text’.

If one chooses a particular verse on the right side, in the main text or in the English translation, all kinds of details about the verse are projected on the left side of the web page: (1) again the Aramaic text, now by the verse. This window can later be used to give a vocalized text; (2) the Hebrew text of that verse; (3) the English translation, based on my dissertation;¹ (4) the Latin translation as given in the manuscripts of Zamora;² (5) the Latin translation as given in the Antwerp Polyglot Bible, with alternative translations from the Paris and the London Polyglot Bibles under the icon ‘i’; (6) the actual critical apparatus. We use the sigla

¹ E. van Staalduine-Sulman, *The Targum of Samuel* (SAIS, 1; Leiden: Brill, 2002).

² Mss 7542 of Madrid University (dated 1533) and M-1 of the Salamanca Library (dated 1534).

system invented by the Targum Institute with numbers for each manuscript, and several letters to indicate the family resemblance of that manuscript: B for Babylonian, Y for Yemenite, I for Italian, which is actually a mixed Western family, A for Ashkenazi, S for Sephardic, R for Codex Solger and the Rabbinic Bibles and F for various fragments that cannot be located within the stemma. I intend to use the letter combination SC (Sephardic, Christianized) for the Antwerp Polyglot Bible and its successors.³ If one moves the cursor on the siglum, the actual shelf mark of the manuscript pops up. The ^ is used to indicate that something has been omitted; (7) commentary on the text, mostly intertextual connections and references to secondary literature; and (8) a secondary critical apparatus with quotations of the verse in other literature.⁴

If one wants to see the variant readings, given in the critical apparatus, within their actual context, one can click on ‘show manuscript’ and a list of all the manuscripts will roll down. A new web page will pop up, when one chooses a siglum. This again contains the main text, parallel to the text of the chosen manuscript. All the manuscripts are being transcribed within the present research project, ‘A Jewish Targum in a Christian World.’⁵ When they have been finished and double checked, they will all be available. Abbreviations within the manuscripts are indicated with abbreviation marks. Letters that are difficult to read are given in square brackets. Illegible words or phrases are indicated by [...] or, if it is certainly only one letter by one dot in square brackets. Corrected words within the manuscript text are indicated by underlining. This concerns both corrections between the lines and marginal notes. If the cursor is placed on the underlined word, the correction pops up.

Introduction to the Critical Edition

The theory behind the critical edition is spelled out by the present author in her ‘Introduction to the Critical Edition.’ The first chapter is a kind of *status quaestionis*. The second chapter describes the theory and difficulties of the new sigla system, the list of sigla itself is published under the heading ‘Standard List of Sigla’ in the second part of the website. The third chapter gives an overview of stemmatological research within Targum Studies. It includes research into vocalization and orthography and ends with recommendations in this respect. Chapter 4

³ See my article ‘Christianized Targums’ in this volume.

⁴ Many of these quotations have recently discussed by Harry Sysling in: A. Houtman and H. Sysling, *Alternative Targum Traditions: The Use of Variant Readings for the Study in Origin and History of Targum Jonathan* (SAIS, 9; Leiden: Brill, 2009).

⁵ See the Introduction by the editors of this volume.

gives the stemma in general, but also describes the relationships between the various manuscripts within the branches. The unique variants within the branches are summed up. Chapter 5 provides the reader with extra material on codicology and palaeography, in as far it is relevant to stemmatological research. It ends with a very short description of the manuscripts used—the extensive descriptions are available in the manuscript database. Finally, some additional recommendations are given for the critical edition.

User's Guide to the Critical Edition

The practicalities of how the critical edition can be used, some of which are mentioned above, are collected in the 'User's Guide to the Critical Edition'. It is a summary of the Keynote Lecture I gave at the IOTS congress in 2007 at Ljubljana (Slovenia).

List of Modern Targum Editions

This edition is not the only new Targum edition after Sperber's work. In the 'List of Modern Targum Editions' other works that provide an edition of (a part of) a Targum are listed. One of the striking things is that there are no editions on some of the Minor Prophets, whereas these are the books that were edited most in the sixteenth and seventeenth century.

ITTEP

The International Organization of Targumic Studies (IOTS) announced the formation of the International Targum Text Edition Project (ITTEP) in 2004. The project's purpose is to consolidate and analyze all the textual information concerning the Rabbinic Targums. A specially appointed committee, the 'Text Edition Exploratory Committee' (TEEC), has investigated how this could be established. It has defined two goals and set out a way to reach them. Goal One would be the creation of a single text for each targum that forms the best scholarly approximation of the earliest form of the text that can be identified. This text will be as fixed as possible, with all the necessary text-critical decisions made. Goal Two would be the creation of tools and textual data with which to study each targum as a living tradition over the centuries. The entire proposal of the Exploratory Committee is provided under the heading 'ITTEP'.

Contact

For questions about and comments on the edition, its goals and usability, its predecessors or its desirability, please contact the e-mail address given under ‘Contact’.

Manuscripts

Targum Manuscript Database

The Targum Manuscript Database is the second still growing result of the work of the Targum Institute. The basis has been produced by David J.D. Kroeze. Up till now we have concentrated on manuscripts containing Targum Jonathan. These manuscripts are extensively described and the database is searchable in various ways. First, one can search on Bible text. If a certain part is selected, say 2 Samuel, the search must be refined by selecting whether fragmentary and/or liturgical manuscripts must be included. If one only selects the ‘entire’ 2 Samuel without fragments, the result is a list of manuscripts that contain 2 Samuel in its entirety, or a very large part of it—at least 10 chapters. Second, one can search with ‘free text’. The options then are endless, especially in the section ‘advanced search’. One can search for shelf marks, library names, cities in which the manuscripts are kept, background, names of owners or scribes, etc. It can be interesting to search for the presence of ‘Megillat Antiochos’ within the manuscripts, or for all the manuscripts that are stored in the Vatican Library. It is, of course, advisable to try out various spellings, *for example* ‘Megillath Antiochos’ besides ‘Megillat Antiochos’ or ‘Sefardic’ besides ‘Sephardic’.

Within the descriptions information is provided on the shelf mark, the place and library where the manuscript is kept, its contents, its script and other codicological features, the provenance, the colophon, the secondary literature and catalogues on the specific manuscript, and the number of its reference in the Institute of Microfilmed Hebrew Manuscripts. It is still a work in progress, as is the critical edition. At regular intervals corrections and additions are entered in the database.

User’s Guide to the Database

More information on how to search can be found in the manuscript database and is made available in the user’s guide.

List of Haftarat and Torah Sections

In order to make searching on Bible text easier David Kroeze has provided a list of Torah sections and accompanying haftarat. First the Yemenite rite is described, including special sabbats and festivals. Then the Western rite. The latter list is very short, because Western manuscripts only give the Aramaic text of the haftarat for Pesach and Shavuot.

Standard List of Sigla

A list of all the sigla is given in this ‘Standard List of Sigla.’ They are accompanied by the shelf mark of the manuscript and the city, library and country in which it is kept.

List of Catalogues Used

The ‘List of Catalogues Used’ gives the catalogues that are used for the description of the manuscripts. Remarks make it clear how far these catalogues were used and whether they were trustworthy for the description of the relevant manuscripts. Other catalogues can be found in the list compiled by Willem Smelik on the website www.targum.info/catalogues.

Contact

For questions about and comments on the database, its goals and usability, please contact the e-mail address given under ‘Contact.’

Projects

Previous and present Targum projects of the Protestant Theological University are briefly described under their names: ‘Bilingual Concordance to the Targum of the Prophets’, ‘History and Origin of Targum Jonathan’ and ‘A Jewish Targum in a Christian World.’ Useful links will be added in the future, as well as a database of articles on Targumic topics. Last but not least a list of publications of the Targum Institute (and associates) can be found under the heading ‘List of Publications.’ It is divided into scholarly books and articles, web publications, popular publications and reviews. For questions about and comments on this part of the website, please contact the e-mail address given under ‘Contact.’

Finally, we would like to encourage you to use the website. If you find any flaws or errors, do not hesitate to contact us. We welcome every opportunity to enhance its contents or its search procedure.